



Collaboration Key in Dubois Avian Flu Response

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Shortly after confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H7N8) were found in Dubois County on January 15, 2016, state, local and federal officials sprang into action to begin preparing a response. The state response was led by the Indiana Board of Animal Health.

Under the direction of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Indiana Emergency Operations Center was elevated to a Level III, operating 24 hours a day, and remained so until Friday, January 22. The EOC provided resource support to local county emergency agencies and worked with local emergency

management officials to continually assess the situation.

A Unified Incident Command Post was established in Jasper, Indiana, staffed by a state Incident Management Team, along with federal and local partners. A Joint Information Center was also activated to manage media calls and distribution of information from a single location.

After the cases of avian influenza were found on January 15, nine additional flocks with avian influenza were detected, all in Dubois County. A 10-kilometer control area was established around the first identified farm,

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Community Paramedicine Meeting Is February 25

A round table discussion will be held this month focused on the state of community paramedicine in Indiana.

On February 25, emergency medical service providers, hospital administrators, educators and public health professionals will meet at St. Vincent Fishers Hospital to talk about paramedicine in their communities. Those invited to the discussion include individuals involved with paramedicine programs and parties interested in starting one.

A symposium on community paramedicine was held in December 2014. This month's

round table is a follow up to that meeting.

“Our goal is to reconnect and find out what’s working and what’s not in Hoosier communities,” said Elizabeth Westfall, IDHS EMS District Services Manager. “This is a chance for public health stakeholders to discuss, ask questions and learn from each other.”

Paramedicine aims to improve the quality of life in rural and urban populations by addressing minor and chronic health problems in the home. By working with other health care agencies, community paramedics

work to reduce readmissions and prevent unnecessary ambulance transports.

The round table will take place on February 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Community Room A at St. Vincent Fishers Hospital. If you wish to attend, please RSVP by contacting Elizabeth Westfall at ewestfall@dhs.in.gov.

The round table was organized by the Emergency Medical Services Section of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. ♦

Northern Indiana Responders Deploy to Maryland



Members of the Northern Indiana IMT (individuals listed below) are pictured with Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake (center).

An Indiana Department of Homeland Security incident management team (IMT) from Northern Indiana traveled to Maryland on January 25 for a seven-day deployment to assist the City of Baltimore with severe weather affecting the region.

The IDHS deployment was a Type 3 IMT comprised of members from IDHS districts 1, 2 and 3.

“Hoosiers’ first thoughts are nearly always, ‘How can I help?’ ” said Indiana Governor Mike Pence. “The willingness of local public safety professionals to help others goes well beyond the borders of our state. Indiana is in a strong position to lend assistance and resources to our neighbors in need, and I applaud the team for its commitment to service.”

The IDHS IMT assisted the City of Baltimore with logistics, mission tracking, resource logging and staging area operations.

The following individuals were members of the IMT:

- Kent Stouder, Elkhart City Fire Department
- Gary Horvath, South Bend Police Department
- T.R. Hagerty, Angola Fire Department
- Darryl Eiler, South Bend Fire Department
- Mike Pennington, Elkhart County Emergency Management Agency
- Roger Powers, DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency
- Ed Rock, Kosciusko County Emergency Management Agency
- Sheri Gaillard, Pulaski County Emergency Management Agency
- Mike Rheim, Kendallville Fire Department
- Mike Weber, Porter County Emergency Management Agency
- Lucas Gluchowski, Clay Fire Department
- Brian McLaughlin, South Bend Fire Department
- Matt Dhoore, Clay Fire Department
- Larry Hoover, Fulton County Emergency Management Agency
- Ron Melser, Clay Fire Department
- Kenny Miller, Clay Fire Department
- John Jarka, Chesterton Fire Department

A Type 3 IMT is a multi-jurisdictional team used for extended incidents that is formed and managed at the local, state or tribal level. Type 3 IMTs are deployed as a team of 10-20 trained personnel representing multiple disciplines from different departments, organizations, agencies and jurisdictions who manage complex incidents requiring a significant number of local, state or tribal resources. ♦

Indiana Responds to Washington, D.C. Snow Crisis

The Indianapolis International Airport sent a snow-melting machine to the nation's capital on Monday, Jan. 25, a day on which federal offices in Washington, D.C. were shut down due to a crippling snowstorm that struck the east coast two days earlier.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security fielded a request for help from Washington, D.C. and quickly facilitated the inter-governmental logistics required to make available a snow-melting machine from the Indianapolis International Airport.

In the blizzard of 2014, many cities had large snow piles that

limited parking, made traffic hazardous and did not completely melt until well into spring.

The key benefit of the airport's snow-melting unit is that it solves the common problem of where to put shoveled snow. The semi-truck-sized unit uses multiple jets of hot water to melt up to 60 tons of snow an hour dropped into it by large front-loader tractors/bulldozers. The water then flows into storm-sewer systems, leaving streets, sidewalks and parking lots snow-free. ♦



The Washington Monument during the January 2016 winter storm. The Indianapolis International Airport provided a snow-melting machine to assist the city in its response. (CC photo courtesy of Northside777 Wikimedia Commons)

IDHS Employee Receives Earthquake Prep. Award

The Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) has honored Jim Hawkins, Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Assistant Section Chief of Code Enforcement, for his leadership work with the Indiana Building Emergency Assessment and Monitoring Team (I-BEAM). Hawkins received the CUSEC Recognition Award at a ceremony in Memphis, Tennessee this week.

"This honor not only recognizes the hard work and dedication Jim Hawkins has provided for the state of Indiana, but the all the hours of training and exercise that every member of I-BEAM has participated in," said Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson.

The Indiana Building Emergency Assessment and Monitoring Team (I-BEAM) is comprised of volunteers from around Indiana and personnel from IDHS who have a background in building safety. After any man-made or natural event which may destabilize buildings, I-BEAM can perform structural assessments to

determine whether or not buildings are safe to be used again.

"I-BEAM is crucial to the state's response plan to a disaster," said Greeson. "Their ability to quickly respond to and determine the safety of buildings in an area affected by a disaster is critical in getting a community on the road to recovery."

CUSEC is a federally-funded organization that works with several different agencies and organizations in each of its member states to coordinate activities related to earthquake awareness, mitigation, planning, and the application of earthquake research. Members include: Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

"Mr. Hawkins' work with IDHS and his leadership of the I-BEAM Team, has not only made Indiana better prepared for disasters, but the entire region as well," said

Brian Blake, CUSEC Program Manager. "We want all eight of our CUSEC states to be involved in this type of program, and Indiana's team is a great model to emulate."

Indiana is exposed to a serious threat of earthquakes along the New Madrid Seismic Zone – located 180 miles southwest of Evansville – and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone, which encompasses parts of Southeastern Illinois and Southwestern Indiana.

Annually, Indiana participates in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut led by local emergency management agencies, IDHS, the Indiana Geological Survey, the Indiana Department of Education, CUSEC, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Geological Survey. The state regularly registers more participates in the earthquake drill than any other state in the Central U.S. region. ♦

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with an extension of an extra 10-kilometer surveillance zone put in place as a precaution. While all infected sites were in Dubois County, this perimeter did include parts of Crawford, Daviess, Martin and Orange counties.

The infected turkeys, totaling more than 250,000, were depopulated on all 10 premises and composting was begun. An additional 156,000 hens that were not infected had to be depopulated because the facility they were housed in was considered to be dangerously close to one of the infected turkey flocks.

The cold weather hampered depopulation efforts, causing frozen water lines and the absence of water in certain areas. Various area fire departments were invaluable in bringing water and foam to aid in the depopulation, along with heated tanks.

State and federal teams visited nearly 2,000 residences in the 10-kilometer control area as a precaution, looking for small, backyard flocks. About 100 backyard flocks were found but all testing was negative. In addition, the Dubois County Health Department closely monitored all workers who came into contact with the infected fowl.

Several mental health treatment options were made available, along with 24-hour hotlines. While this was a difficult time for area farmers, human infection from an H7 virus is uncommon and avian influenza does not present a food safety risk. Human health agencies will continue to monitor workers and others who had contact with the infected birds, just as a precaution.

Special thanks to the following people and agencies who joined forces to combat the avian



Hundreds of state, federal and local responders have been working daily in response to avian influenza being found on a commercial turkey farm in Dubois County. Members of the IDHS Incident Management Team are pictured along with federal and local partners.

influenza challenge on the front lines in Dubois County – more than 500 professionals:

Twelve Fire Departments including:

- Birdseye Fire Department
- Celestine Fire Department
- Dubois Fire Department
- Ferdinand Fire Department
- Haysville Fire Department
- Holland Fire Department
- Huntingburg Fire Department
- Ireland Fire Department
- Jasper Fire Department

- St. Anthony Fire Department
- St. Henry Fire Department
- Schnellville Fire Department

Emergency Management Agencies from:

- Dubois County
- Knox County
- Daviess County
- Martin County
- Gibson County
- Pike County
- Crawford County
- Posey County
- Vanderburgh County

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- Warrick County
- Spencer County
- Perry County

Other organizations and agencies including:

- The State Board of Animal Health (BOAH)
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture
- Indiana Department of Homeland Security
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana State Department of Health
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Indiana Department of Correction
- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indiana State Police
- Family and Social Services Administration
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Indiana University
- Dubois County Health Department
- Dubois County Commissioners
- Dubois County Sheriff's Department
- Dubois County Highway Department
- Dubois Water Utility
- Patoka Regional Water
- City of Jasper and Jasper Street Department
- Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds
- Indiana Civil Air Patrol
- Vincennes University Jasper Campus
- Memorial Hospital and Healthcare
- Memorial Hospital Behavioral Health Service



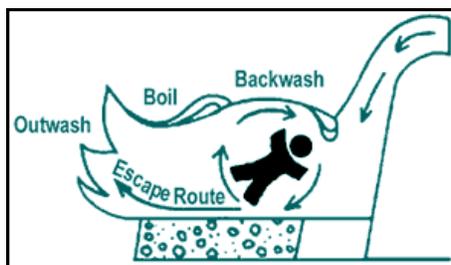
Timely and accurate information to the public is key to any response effort. A Joint Information Center (JIC) was set up to get key information in the hands of the media, elected officials and the public about avian influenza. All information was coordinated through the JIC under the guidance of BOAH. Pictured from left to right: Don Watson, IDHS; Koren Custer, USDA; Denise Derrer, BOAH.

- Southern Hills Counseling Center
- Purdue University Extension
- American Red Cross ♦

IDHS Participates in Low-Head Dam Symposium

Members of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security attended a symposium that provided education on the benefits and dangers of low-head dams. The event, presented by the Indiana Water Monitoring Council, largely focused on stream restoration and personal safety related to the presence of low-head dams throughout the state.

Low-head dams present a safety risk because they can produce dangerous recirculating currents and hydraulic forces that trap victims caught in them. Many of these structures are made of concrete, span across entire waterways, and are able to



Low-head dams present a safety risk because they can produce dangerous recirculating currents and hydraulic forces. Once a victim is swept over the dam, they become trapped and are forced under water, pushed away from the dam, then circulated to the top. The circulating motion then repeats the cycle over and over again (photo via the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries).

produce vertical water surface drops of anywhere between 1 and 15 feet. Speakers at the event

discussed how low-head dams affect fish passage through streams and safety for those in or near waterways with low-head dams, as well as sediment toxicity and buildup.

Other participating agencies included the Indiana Water Resources Association, the Department of Natural Resources, the United States Geological Survey, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Silver Jackets, that helped make up an audience of more than 200 attendees. ♦

State Fire Investigators Assisted 88 Counties in 2015

Each year, fire departments across the state conduct myriad fire investigations. In some cases, additional help is needed, whether for a second opinion, technical expertise or any other number of reasons. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the State Fire Marshal assist with fire investigations upon request from local departments, and offer additional expertise and staffing.

Investigators with IDHS assisted local fire departments in 88 of Indiana's 92 counties with 549 investigations during 2015.

"Our investigators work around the clock responding to the needs of local fire departments across Indiana," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "Their efforts supplement the work of local responders and communities to strengthen public safety in our state."

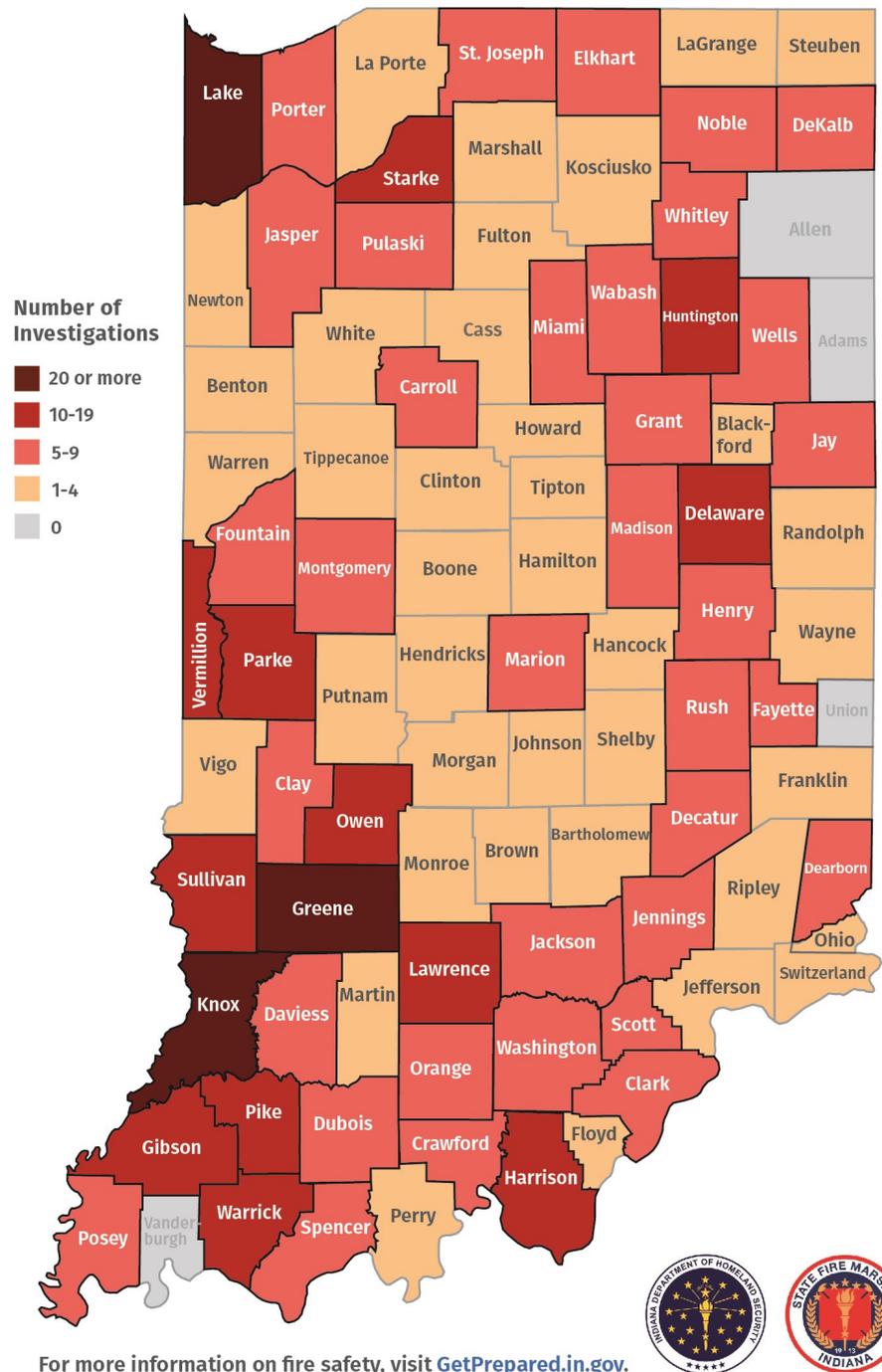
Local fire departments appreciate the rapid-response track record of state fire investigators, said Jim Roberts, chief of the Greenfield Fire Department and president of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association.

"The State Fire Marshal investigators are a tremendous resource for local fire departments, especially for volunteer departments that don't have investigators on staff," Roberts said. "Their ability to quickly respond to any fire department in need has been of tremendous help to us in Greenfield and to departments throughout the state."

Quick facts about IDHS-investigated fire cases in 2015:

- Investigations peaked in December 2015 with 57 that month.
- In the typically colder months

State Fire Investigations in 2015



For more information on fire safety, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.



of January, February, October, November and December of 2015, IDHS averaged about 52 investigations per month (averaged about 41 investigations in other months for 2015).

- The initial estimated damage total in IDHS-investigated cases was at least \$44 million.
- In at least 34 percent of cases, there was no evidence of a working smoke alarm on the premises. ♦

State Fire Marshal, IBA to Distribute Smoke Alarms

The State Fire Marshal and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Division of Fire and Building Safety are partnering with the Indiana Builders Association (IBA) to distribute more than 400 smoke alarms statewide starting in February. The IBA will provide and install the smoke alarms.

The IBA's distribution will focus on citizens without smoke alarms, the elderly, the economically disadvantaged and those with outdated smoke alarms. IDHS is providing recommendations to the IBA about where to distribute the smoke alarms based on fire reporting data. The distribution will target areas where fires are occurring more often.

"Early warning is what gets people out of their homes and buildings and saves lives," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "Our mission here is to ensure that these homes have working smoke alarms so in case there is a fire, people have early warning to escape. Early warning is the key."

A properly-functioning smoke alarm in the home makes it 50 percent more likely for a person to escape a dangerous fire safely, said Greeson.

“*Early warning is what gets people out of their homes and buildings and saves lives. Our mission here is to ensure that these homes have working smoke alarms so in case there is a fire, people have early warning to escape. Early warning is the key.*

State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson

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In addition to the IBA, IDHS currently has partnerships to distribute smoke alarms with the Red Cross and State Farm

Insurance. Through the State Farm Insurance grant program, IDHS and the State Fire Marshal distributed about 500 smoke alarms to homes across the state in 2015. The Red Cross has helped local fire departments install more than 5,700 smoke alarms throughout Indiana since October 2014. Many fire departments throughout the state have developed incredibly successful smoke alarm programs, which Greeson believes was a significant factor in the 14 percent reduction in fire deaths in 2015.

Fire departments that would like to partner with the Indiana State Fire Marshal to distribute smoke alarms in their community can visit dhs.in.gov/3858.htm.

The State Fire Marshal oversees the IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety. ♦

Firefighter Airlifted From Fayette County Crash

Local, county and state emergency teams worked together for more than three hours to save a Bentonville volunteer firefighter from an automobile crash on the morning of January 20, 2016. Indiana State Police, the Fayette County Sheriff's Department, Fayette County EMS and Glenwood Fire Department assisted in extricating Greg Pflum, Connersville, from his vehicle after an accident involving a semi.

A medical helicopter airlifted Pflum, who suffered internal injuries, to St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis. According to Assistant State Fire Marshal

Robert Johnson, Pflum suffered only facial fractures but no brain injuries. He is expected to make a full recovery after rehabilitation.

Pflum was en route on State Road 44 to the Glenwood Fire Department to help with a Glenwood area fire when he lost control of his Chevy pickup truck on an icy patch of road. His truck rotated into the eastbound lane, where International Tractor-Trailer semi driver Chauncey Nichols of Louisville, KY, hit Pflum's vehicle in the passenger side bed. Nichols suffered no injuries from the accident. ♦



The Indiana State Police, Fayette County Sheriff's Department, Fayette County EMS and Glenwood Fire Dept. worked for more than three hours to free firefighter Greg Pflum.

Mission

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security will provide statewide leadership, exemplary customer service, and subject matter expertise for the enhancement of public and private partnerships and the assurance of local, state and federal collaboration to continually develop Indiana's public safety capabilities for the wellbeing and protection of our citizens, property and economy.

Contact

The Hoosier Responder is a publication of The Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information Office at (317) 234-6713 or pio@dhs.in.gov.

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